

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION II**

DATE: JUL 20 2012

SUBJECT: Removal Site Evaluation for the Old Village of Endicott Dump, Village of Endicott,
Broome County, New York (CERCLIS ID No. NYD980508238)

FROM: Nick Magriples, On-Scene Coordinator
Removal Action Branch



TO: File

Introduction

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Removal Action Branch has been requested to conduct a Removal Site Evaluation (RSE) at the Old Village of Endicott Dump, a site where no further remedial action is planned (NFRAP). The NFRAP determination signifies that no additional remedial steps will be taken to list the Site on the National Priorities List unless new information warranting further Superfund consideration or conditions not previously known to EPA regarding the Site are disclosed. As of June 21, 2007, EPA had determined that no further remedial action was warranted by the Federal Superfund program at Old Village of Endicott Dump.

Site Description and Background

The Old Village of Endicott Dump (Site) is located under the Endicott Plaza and the Jennie F. Snapp Middle School athletic fields in the Village of Endicott, Broome County, New Jersey. It consists of a 35-acre landfill that is reported by the NYSDEC to have operated from the early 1900s to around 1960. While operating, the landfill received household waste, municipal waste and industrial waste from local businesses such as the Endicott Johnson Shoe Manufacturing Plant and IBM Corporation. The waste stream from Endicott Johnson consisted of tanning wastes, animal hides and scrap leather.

The Site is approximately contained within Andrews Avenue to the northwest, a residential neighborhood along the southern side of Broad Street to the northeast, Cleveland Avenue roughly to the east, an area of mostly commercial businesses with some residential along the northern side of East Main Street to the south, and the Jennie F. Snapp Middle School building to the west. Vestal Avenue and Harrison Avenue cross the center and the eastern edges of the Site, respectively, from north to south. Besides Endicott Plaza and the school, there are other buildings on the Site including the Medical Arts building, a Goodyear auto service facility, a restaurant and several other smaller structures. A large portion of the central portion of the Site between Harrison and Vestal Avenues is a paved parking lot for Endicott Plaza, a former shopping plaza that was built in the early 1960s. A closed K-Mart store is the only structure remaining in the plaza. The remainder of the Site area is made up of paved parking lots and streets, sidewalks and grass-covered areas.



The topography of the Site is generally flat except that there is a gradual dip in the center towards the parking lot of Endicott Plaza. There are woods on all sides of the Site except the northeastern edge along Lake Avenue. The Susquehanna River is approximately 1,300 feet to the south of the Site.

The Site is located within the Endicott-Johnson City Primary Aquifer and the Clinton Street-Ballpark sole source aquifer. Groundwater is reported to be present at a depth of 18-24 feet below ground surface. Most of the groundwater contamination is reported to be present in the shallow sand and gravel aquifer throughout the general area. The closest drinking water well is the Village of Endicott South Street Well approximately 1,300 feet to the south. This well historically has had low levels of VOCs that have not exceeded drinking water standards. In July 2005, the Village of Endicott completed construction of a packed tower aeration treatment system, funded by IBM, for Well Nos. 5 (South Street Well) and 28 (Park Well) to reduce VOC levels. Groundwater flow is believed to flow towards the southeast and/or the southwest, and is influenced by the pumping of the municipal well. It is estimated that the four municipal wells in the area serve 45,000 persons, which represents 90% of the population, and the remainder are reported to be served by private water supplies. Both the public water supply and the monitoring wells are sampled quarterly.

In May 1990, a surface soil sampling and soil vapor survey were conducted at the Jennie F. Snapp Middle School. Leather scraps were identified in the school's crawl space and municipal waste in boreholes near the pilings of the building. Soil vapor samples were collected from within the crawl space and from the adjacent athletic field. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs) were not detected in the crawl space, however low levels of VOCs were detected in the field. As a result, the NYSDEC and NYSDOH collected surface soil samples from the athletic field which reportedly did not detect anything significant. These results were transmitted to the school in April 1991 with a letter of interpretation.

An investigation was conducted at the Site by the NYSDEC in 1997 which included the installation of monitoring wells and test pits, and the collection of groundwater and soil samples. Some soil samples were above the State cleanup objective levels for several polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and phthalates. All other analytical parameters were below standards and no samples exceeded Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedures analyses. The test pits and borings encountered fill material generally at a depth of one foot. The thickness of the material appeared to be 10 to 15 feet thick and indications of a potentially significant clay lens beneath the Site. Sampling of the new and existing monitoring wells identified benzene, chlorobenzene, 1, 2-dichloroethene, ethylbenzene, xylene and 1, 4-dichlorobenzene at levels exceeding NYSDEC groundwater standards. The contaminants found were reportedly not previously identified in soil samples collected at the Site.

The Site is part of the Endicott Area Wide Study that the NYSDEC has been conducting, in conjunction with the health departments, to further define the extent of soil vapor and groundwater contamination outside of the IBM study area in the Village of Endicott and the Town of Union. It includes identifying potential sources of VOC contamination and also identifying and mitigating structures with vapor intrusion issues. ATSDR, the NYSDOH, and the Broome County DOH have been developing a Public Health Response Plan to address community concerns about health issues associated with environmental contamination in the area.

A June 2005 investigation report, which included the Site and the school, concluded that the Site is not a source of groundwater contamination and that there does not appear to be a continuous source of vapor intrusion issues since impacts have not been observed in the soil or the groundwater.

Site assessment activities/observations

The Pre-Remedial site files, which included a NYSDEC Delisting Package (June 1998), and more recent reports by the NYSDEC and NYSDOH available on the internet, were reviewed as part of this Removal Site Evaluation. A site reconnaissance was conducted by the Removal Action Branch on December 13, 2011. Endicott Plaza is abandoned and partially fenced with temporary fencing to limit access onto the vast, former parking lot. Most of the other businesses situated on portions of the Site or near its edge appear to be operating. The largest grassy area on the Site is the athletic field adjacent to the school and it appears to be generally well maintained.

Release or threatened release into the environment of a hazardous substance, or pollutant or contaminant

EPA conducted a Site Investigation in 1987/1988 and collected three soil samples and two groundwater samples. The subsurface soil samples were found to contain chromium (443 mg/kg), PCBs (798 ug/kg), and numerous PAHs including phenanthrene (6 mg/kg), fluoranthene (5.9 mg/kg), acenaphthene (2.5 mg/kg) and naphthalene (1.5 mg/kg). The groundwater samples, collected from a private well up-gradient of the Site and the Village of Endicott Water Supply downgradient of the Site, detected low levels of some volatile organic compounds (VOCs) such as trans-1,2-dichloroethane (3 ug/l), trichloroethene (2 ug/l) and phenol (2 ug/l).

Samples collected in 1990 at the Medical Arts Building property before its purchase identified leather scraps, cinder, plastic debris, ash, wood, and metal fragments. Chromium was detected in a groundwater sample at a concentration of 12 ug/l. Volatile organics were not detected.

Samples collected from the municipal wells by the Endicott Municipal Water Works in 1997 also encountered cis-1,2-dichloroethane, 1,1-dichloroethane and 1,1,1-trichloroethane at levels below MCLs. Sentinel wells installed up-gradient of the water supply wells have detected similar contaminant levels.

Threats to Public Health or Welfare

Most of the Site other than the athletic field is covered in asphalt or concrete or underlies buildings, which limits direct contact exposures. Sampling of the athletic field and buildings with potential vapor intrusion issues reportedly has not detected levels of concern. The groundwater contamination at the Site and the nearby municipal well is being treated for low-level VOC contamination that reportedly is not site-related.

Threats to the Environment

There is no documentation to indicate that the Site is currently having an acute impact to any sensitive environments or natural resources.

Conclusions

CERCLA hazardous substances have been detected at the Site however, it is reported that the Site is not the source of the contamination in a nearby water supply. The Site has been delisted by the NYSDEC, with concurrence by the NYSDOH, since there has been no documented disposal of hazardous waste and because no source of contamination was found. The NYSDEC and federal, state and local health agencies continue to participate in monitoring potential health concerns and ensuring mitigative actions are conducted over a large portion of Endicott as part of an overall comprehensive effort. Based on the available information, the Site does not warrant a CERCLA removal action at this time.